Public Safety Property Re-Use Working Group

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of the Public Safety Property Re-Use Working Group is to provide community leaders and Ipswich residents with a variety of potential uses for the existing Police Station building and parcel located at 15 Elm Street and Fire Station building and parcel located at 55 Central Street should the Town vote to support the construction of a new combined Public Safety Building on Pineswamp Road.

Need

The Public Safety Facility Committee is currently preparing a presentation and warrant article for the October 2021 Special Town Meeting to construct a new combined Public Safety Building. The community needs to know the plan(s) for the existing Police and Fire Station parcels should this new building be constructed.

Goal

Develop the best potential uses for the existing Police and Fire Station buildings and parcels to be presented to the Select Board prior to the 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

Objectives

- Research and develop best possible uses for the current Town-owned buildings and land for the Police Station, 15 Elm Street, and Fire Station, 55 Central Street, should a new Public Safety Building be constructed,
- Consider potential costs, as well as revenue opportunities from the lease or sale of these buildings and how those funds may be used to pay down existing debt or finance other town needs.
- Propose a new location for the Community Gardens currently located on the proposed location of the new Public Safety Building
- Present options to the Select Board.

Timeline

The Working Group will present its findings to the Select Board prior to the 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

Membership

- 1 Select Board member
- 1 School Committee member
- 1 Finance Committee member
- 1 Planning Board Member
- 1 Local Business Owner (Town Manager Appointment)
- 1 Historical Committee or Ipswich Museum member

- 1 Garden Club or Shade Tree Committee member
- 1 Member of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund or Partnership
- 2 Citizens at Large, (Town Manager Appointment)

Leadership

The Working Group will select a Chair and Vice-Chair and is expected to post their meetings on the Town Website.